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PATENT
Docket No. H 3172 PCT/US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RE: PCT/EP98/07148
International Filing Date: November 9, 1998
Priority Date Claimed: November 17, 1997
Applicant: Heck et al.
Title: UNSATURATED PALM OIL FATTY ALCOHOLS
Applicants' Reference: H 3172 PCT/US

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box PCT
Washington, DC 20231

ATTN: DO/EO/US

Sir:

Before examination, in the national stage for the United States, of the above-captioned application under the Patent Convention Treaty, please amend as follows the translation supplied herewith of the application:

In the Specification

On page 1, please delete everything above the title.

On page 1, between the title and line 1, please delete "Field of the Invention"

On page 1 between the title and line 1, please insert --**BACKGROUND OF THE**

INVENTION

Field of the Invention --,

On page 1, line 10, please delete "Prior Art",

On page 1, between lines 9 and 10, please insert --

Statement of Related Art

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**Preliminary Amendment of U.S. National Stage for International Application
PCT/EP98/07148 filed November 9, 1998**

On page 8 at the beginning thereof please delete "Patent claims",

On page 8 before claim 1 please add --What is claimed is:--

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1 and 2.

Please add the following new claims 3 and 4:

3. The product of the process for the preparation of a mixture of fatty alcohols having an iodine number in the range from 65 to 85 of the formula (I)



wherein R¹ is a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched radical having from 14 to 20 carbon atoms, wherein the process comprises the steps of:

- (a) fractionating palm oil fatty acid methyl esters to produce a first methyl ester fraction comprised substantially of saturated C₁₆ esters and a bottom product which is a second methyl ester fraction comprised substantially of unsaturated C_{16/18} esters, and
- (b) hydrogenating the bottom fraction to give the corresponding alcohols under conditions such that the carbon-carbon double bonds remain intact.

4. A process for the preparation of a mixture of fatty alcohols having an iodine number in the range from 65 to 85 of the formula (I)



wherein R¹ is a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched radical having from 14 to 20 carbon atoms, wherein the process comprises the steps of:

- (a) fractionating palm oil fatty acid methyl esters to produce a first methyl ester

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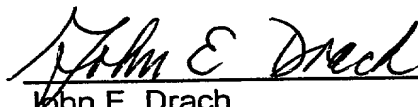
fraction comprised substantially of saturated C₁₆ esters and a bottom product which is a second methyl ester fraction comprised substantially of unsaturated C_{16/18} esters, and

- (b) hydrogenating the bottom fraction to give the corresponding alcohols under conditions such that the carbon-carbon double bonds remain intact.

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to comply with formal U.S. requirements and add preferred headings. Claims 3 and 4 are now pending in the application. Original claims 1 and 2 have been canceled and new claims 3 and 4 have been added. New claims 3 and 4 claim the same subject matter as canceled claims 1 and 2 but in more conventional U.S. form without changing the intended substance of claims 1 and 2. The Abstract of the Disclosure is provided in the published International Application and is incorporated herein by reference. Examination of all the new pending claims on their merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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